

10/566204

IAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 27 JAN 2006
DESCRIPTION

INTERNAL TREATMENT APPARATUS FOR A PATIENT AND AN INTERNAL
TREATMENT SYSTEM FOR A PATIENT

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an internal treatment
apparatus for a patient and an internal treatment system for
a patient which are designed for severing, or the like, a
10 target site inside a patient (subject), and more particularly,
to an apparatus and a system for performing medical treatment
on a site of lesion inside a patient.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

15 In a conventional surgical procedure performed on a site
of lesion inside a patient, operators would directly
manipulate a surgical instrument that had been introduced
into the patient through an incised portion. On the other
hand, recent years have also seen a newly developed method
20 for the operator to remotely manipulate a surgical instrument
introduced into a patient through an incised portion without
directly touching the surgical instrument (For example, see
Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 2001-104333).

The aforementioned surgical procedure performed on a
25 site of lesion inside a patient often requires a plurality of

surgical instruments to be introduced through an incised portion at the same time, and in such a case, the length of the incised portion has to be increased in accordance with an increase in the number of surgical instruments to be
5 introduced at the same time.

To perform a surgical procedure on a site of lesion located deep inside a patient away from the body surface, it is also necessary to increase the length of an incised portion because an insufficient length of the incised portion
10 makes it difficult to ensure a sufficient field of view.

Furthermore, during the aforementioned surgical procedure performed on a site of lesion inside a patient, the surgical instrument may obstruct the view window provided by an endoscope to restrict the field of view, thereby possibly
15 making it difficult to view the site of lesion and the surrounding area thereof.

Furthermore, a plurality of surgical instruments being introduced into a patient would readily interfere with each other or with the endoscope, whereby the surgical instruments
20 and the endoscope could not access the site of lesion in some cases.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to an aspect of the present invention, an
25 internal treatment apparatus for a patient having a flexible

tubular body to be introduced into a patient is provided, the flexible tubular body including a center opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, the center opening being circular in cross section and
5 disposed at a center of an end face of the flexible tubular body; and a plurality of circumferential apertures through which surgical instruments are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on the target site, the plurality of circumferential apertures being provided in the flexible
10 tubular body at equi-angular intervals around the center opening.

In another embodiment, an internal treatment system for a patient including a flexible tubular body, to be introduced into a patient, the flexible tubular body including a center
15 opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, the center opening being circular in cross section and disposed at a center of an end face of the flexible tubular body, and a plurality of circumferential apertures through which surgical instruments are inserted for
20 performing a surgical procedure on the target site, the plurality of circumferential apertures being provided in the flexible tubular body at equi-angular intervals around the center opening; a body manipulating device for manipulating the flexible tubular body from outside the patient; an
25 endoscope manipulating device for manipulating the endoscope

from outside the patient; and a surgical instrument manipulating device for manipulating the surgical instruments from outside the patient.

In another embodiment, an internal treatment apparatus
5 for a patient including a flexible tubular body to be introduced into a patient, the flexible tubular body including a center opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, the center opening extending through the flexible tubular body from a center of
10 a distal end face of the flexible tubular body, the distal end face facing the target site, and a plurality of circumferential apertures through which surgical instruments are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on the target site, the plurality of circumferential apertures being
15 provided to extend through the flexible tubular body from a side face of the flexible tubular body.

In another embodiment, an internal treatment system for a patient including a flexible tubular body to be introduced into a patient, the flexible tubular body including a center
20 opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, the center opening being circular in cross section and extending through the flexible tubular body from a center of a distal end face of the flexible tubular body, the distal end face facing the target site, and a plurality
25 of circumferential apertures through which surgical

instruments are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on the target site, the plurality of circumferential apertures being provided to extend through the flexible tubular body from a side face of the flexible tubular body; a
5 body manipulating device for manipulating the flexible tubular body from outside the patient; an endoscope manipulating device for manipulating the endoscope from outside the patient; and a surgical instrument manipulating device for manipulating the surgical instruments from outside
10 the patient.

In another embodiment, an internal treatment apparatus for a patient including a flexible tubular body to be introduced into a patient, the flexible tubular body including a center opening for inserting therethrough an
15 endoscope for observing a target site, the center opening extending through the flexible tubular body from a center of a distal end face of the flexible tubular body, the distal end face facing the target site, and a plurality of circumferential apertures through which surgical instruments
20 are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on the target site, each of the plurality of circumferential apertures being provided to extend through the flexible tubular body in an area including the distal end face and a side face of the flexible tubular body.

25 In another embodiment, an internal treatment system for

a patient including a flexible tubular body to be introduced into a patient, the flexible tubular body including a center opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, the center opening being circular in cross section and extending through the flexible tubular body from a center of a distal end face of the flexible tubular body, the distal end face facing the target site, and a plurality of circumferential apertures through which surgical instruments are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on the target site, each of the plurality of circumferential apertures being provided to extend through the flexible tubular body in an area including the distal end face and a side face of the flexible tubular body; a body manipulating device for manipulating the flexible tubular body from outside the patient; an endoscope manipulating device for manipulating the endoscope from outside the patient; and a surgical instrument manipulating device for manipulating the surgical instruments from outside the patient.

It is desirable for the endoscope to be a stereoscopic endoscope allowing an operator to stereoscopically observe the target site.

The surgical instrument can include a monitor device allowing an operator to observe a vicinity of a distal end of the surgical instrument.

The surgical instrument can include an illumination

device which allows an operator to illuminate a vicinity of the distal end of the surgical instrument with light.

The surgical instrument can include at least one of an air feed device and a water feed device which allows an operator to clean a distal end of the illumination device.

It is desirable for the internal treatment system to further include an image displaying device for displaying an image formed by the endoscope.

It is desirable for the flexible tubular body to include a resiliently deflectable portion.

It is desirable for the surgical instrument to include a resiliently deflectable portion.

It is desirable for the flexible tubular body to include grooves provided between each adjacent the circumferential apertures.

It is desirable for a projection angle of the surgical instruments from the flexible tubular body to be smaller than a half angle of a field-of-view of the endoscope.

It is desirable for the endoscope to include an illumination device which emits white light, and for the surgical instruments to each include an illumination device which emits colored light.

Each illumination device of the surgical instruments can continuously emit colored light.

Alternatively, each illumination device of the surgical

instruments can emit colored light intermittedly.

It is desirable for the endoscope to include an illumination device, and for the surgical instruments to each include an illumination device which emits light having light
5 intensity different from that of light emitted from the illumination device of the endoscope.

It is desirable for the internal treatment system for a patient to include an image displaying device for displaying an image provided by the endoscope.

10 The present disclosure relates to subject matter contained in Japanese Patent Application Nos.2003-281850 (filed on July 29, 2003) and 2004-11954 (filed on January 20, 2004) which are expressly incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

15

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a front view showing the configuration of an internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

20 Figure 2 is a perspective view showing the configuration of the internal treatment apparatus for a patient with surgical instruments and an endoscope being inserted therein in the first embodiment;

Figure 3 is a block diagram showing the relation between
25 a body, an endoscope, and surgical instruments, and body

manipulating device, endoscope manipulating device, surgical instrument manipulating device, and image displaying device according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 4 is a view showing an example of a surgical procedure being performed within a range of view of the endoscope according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 5 is a perspective view showing the configuration of a modified example of the first embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 6 is a block diagram showing the relation between a body, an endoscope, and surgical instruments, and manipulating device and image displaying device according to the modified example of the first embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 7 is a front view showing the configuration of the body of an internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 8 is a sectional view taken along the line VIII-VIII of Figure 7;

Figure 9 is a perspective view showing the configuration of the internal treatment apparatus with surgical instruments and an endoscope being inserted therein in the second embodiment;

Figure 10 is a view showing an example of a surgical

procedure being performed within a range of view of the endoscope according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 11 is a front view showing the configuration of the body of the internal treatment apparatus for a patient, provided with five apertures according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 12 is a sectional view taken along the line XII-XII of Figure 11;

Figure 13 is a perspective view showing the configuration of the internal treatment apparatus for a patient of Figure 11 with surgical instruments and an endoscope being inserted therein;

Figure 14 is a block diagram showing the relation between a body, an endoscope, and surgical instruments, and body manipulating device, endoscope manipulating device, surgical instrument manipulating device, and image displaying device according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 15 shows a modification of the second embodiment, of the present invention, and corresponds to Figure 8;

Figure 16 is a perspective view showing the configuration of the internal treatment apparatus with surgical instruments and an endoscope being inserted therein in the modified second embodiment shown in Figure 15;

Figure 17 shows another modification of the second embodiment of the present invention, corresponding to Figure 8;

Figure 18 is a perspective view showing the configuration of the internal treatment apparatus with surgical instruments and an endoscope being inserted therein in the modified second embodiment shown in Figure 17; and

Figure 19 shows another modification of the second embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[FIRST EMBODIMENT]

A first embodiment of the present invention will be described below in detail with reference to Figures 1 to 4.

An internal treatment apparatus 200 and an internal treatment system 300 according to this embodiment, which are intended to perform a medical treatment on a site of lesion (target site) inside a patient, include an apparatus body 10 having a center opening 20 and a circumferential opening portion 30.

The internal treatment system 300 also includes a body manipulating device 60, endoscope manipulating device 70, and surgical instrument manipulating devices 81 to 85. This embodiment to be described is provided with the circumferential opening portion 30 having five apertures; however, any number of apertures may be included in the

circumferential opening portion 30.

For example, the apparatus body 10, which is a flexible tubular member to be introduced into a patient (subject), may have an outer diameter of 5cm. As shown in Figure 2, the apparatus body 10 has a distal end portion 11 having a circular cross section with its outer diameter reduced toward the distal end thereof, and a resiliently deflectable portion 12 secured to a rear end face 11a of the distal end portion 11. The apparatus body 10 is introduced into a patient from the tip of the distal end portion 11 so as to access deep inside the patient according to the location of a site of lesion. The apparatus body 10 allows the body manipulating device 60 connected to its proximal end portion to introduce or withdraw the apparatus body 10 into or from the patient and adjust the degree of deflection of the deflectable portion 12. For example, the body manipulating device 60 includes a manual device for the operator to manipulate manually, an automatic feed device, and a winding device, which allow the body manipulating device 60 to make the apparatus body 10 operable from outside the patient.

The apparatus body 10 is provided with the center opening 20, circular in cross section and extending through the center of the cross section thereof, through which an endoscope is inserted for a site of lesion (target site) to be observed. The apparatus body 10 is also provided with the

circumferential opening portion 30 of five apertures 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35, which are arranged at equal angular intervals (angular intervals of 72 degrees) about a center 20a of the center opening 20 and extend through the apparatus body 10, 5 so that surgical instruments can be fed therethrough in order for surgical procedures to be performed on the site of lesion.

For example, with the apparatus body 10 having an outer diameter of 5cm, the apertures 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 each can have an inner diameter of 1.2cm. The distal end portion 10 11 and the center opening 20 may not necessarily be circular in cross section. In this case, the five apertures 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 may be preferably arranged to surround the center opening 20 at equi-angular intervals between adjacent apertures. The center opening 20 and the circumferential 15 opening portion 30 may penetrate through only the distal end portion 11 with the deflectable portion 12 made hollow.

A stereoscopic endoscope 21 is retractably inserted into and extends through the center opening 20. The stereoscopic endoscope 21 has the following components fixedly inserted 20 into a resiliently deflectable cylindrical body 21a: two monitor optical systems 21b and 21c for stereoscopically observing a site of lesion, illumination optical systems 21d and 21e for illuminating the site of lesion with light, an air feed line 21f for feeding air into the patient, and a 25 water feed line 21g for feeding water to the monitor optical

systems 21b and 21c to defog or clean the surface thereof. The stereoscopic endoscope 21 is employed in this manner to observe a site of lesion and the surrounding area thereof stereoscopically, thereby making it possible to perform
5 medical treatment precisely and smoothly. Furthermore, the stereoscopic endoscope 21 is connected at the proximal end portion thereof to the endoscope manipulating device 70 for introducing and withdrawing the body 21a; adjusting the focus, field of view, and zooming of the monitor optical systems 21b
10 and 21c; adjusting the brightness, direction, and angle of the illumination optical systems 21d and 21e; feeding water to the monitor optical systems 21b and 21c to defog or clean the surface thereof; and feeding air into the patient. The endoscope manipulating device 70 allows the stereoscopic
15 endoscope 21 to be operable from outside the patient. The monitor optical systems 21b and 21c are connected at the proximal end portion of the stereoscopic endoscope 21 to image displaying device 87 which is capable of displaying stereoscopically the images of the site of lesion and its
20 surrounding provided thereby. It is also acceptable to employ only a single monitor optical system depending on the contents of medical treatment.

Flexible elongated surgical instruments 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45 are retractably inserted into and extend out of the
25 apertures 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35, respectively. The surgical

instruments 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45, which each have a resiliently deflectable portion, are connected at their respective proximal end portions to the surgical instrument manipulating devices 81, 82, 83, 84, and 85 to manipulate the surgical instruments. The surgical instruments 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45 may be inserted into any of the apertures 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 depending on the order of medical treatment steps or the shape of a site of lesion. Any surgical instruments other than the surgical instruments 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45 can also be inserted into the apertures 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35. For example, assuming that the apertures 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 each have an inner diameter of 1.2cm, each of the surgical instruments 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45 can have an outer diameter of 1cm.

For example, the surgical instrument 41 has the following components fixedly inserted into a resiliently deflectable cylindrical body 41a to grasp the surrounding of the site of lesion for excision with the surgical instrument 42 or 45: a grasper forceps 41b capable of grasping an object; a monitor optical system (monitor device) 41c for observing the vicinity of the tips of the grasper forceps 41b; illumination optical systems (illumination device) 41d and 41e for illuminating the vicinity of the tips of the grasper forceps 41b with light; an air feed line 41f (air feed device) for feeding air into the patient; and a water

feed line 41g (water feed device) for feeding water to the monitor optical system 41c to defog or clean the surface thereof. The surgical instrument 41 is connected at the proximal end portion thereof to the surgical instrument manipulating device 81 for introducing, withdrawing, and deflecting the body 41a; controlling the grasping operation of the grasper forceps 41b; adjusting the focus, field of view, and zooming of the monitor optical system 41c; adjusting the brightness, direction, and angle of the illumination optical systems 41d and 41e; and feeding water to the monitor optical system 41c to defog or clean the surface thereof and feeding air into the patient. The surgical instrument manipulating device 81 allows the surgical instrument 41 to be operable from outside the patient. The monitor optical system 41c is connected at the proximal end portion of the surgical instrument 41 to image displaying device 91 which is capable of displaying the image of the vicinity of the tips of the grasper forceps 41b provided by the monitor optical system 41c. Two monitor optical systems may also be employed to stereoscopically observe the vicinity of the tips of the grasper forceps 41b. It is also possible to make infrared light observations, fluorescent light observations, zoomed observations, ultrasonic observations, confocal observations, or optical coherent tomographic (OCT) observations.

For example, the surgical instrument 42 has the following components fixedly inserted into a resiliently deflectable cylindrical body 42a to sever the site of lesion whose surrounding is grasped with the surgical instrument 41:

5 a cutting forceps 42b capable of severing an object; a monitor optical system (monitor device) 42c for observing the vicinity of the tips of the cutting forceps 42b; illumination optical systems (illumination device) 42d and 42e for illuminating the vicinity of the tips of the cutting forceps

10 42b with light; an air feed line 42f (air feed device) for feeding air into the patient; and a water feed line 42g (water feed device) for feeding water to the monitor optical system 42c to defog or clean the surface thereof. The surgical instrument 42 is connected at its proximal end

15 portion to the surgical instrument manipulating device 82 for introducing, withdrawing, and deflecting the body 42a; controlling the severing operation of the cutting forceps 42b; adjusting the focus, field of view, and zooming of the monitor optical system 42c; adjusting the brightness,

20 direction, and angle of the illumination optical systems 42d and 42e; and feeding water to the monitor optical system 42c to defog or clean the surface thereof and feeding air into the patient. The surgical instrument manipulating device 82 makes the surgical instrument 42 operable from outside the

25 patient. The monitor optical system 42c is connected at the

proximal end portion of the surgical instrument 42 to image
displaying device 92 which is capable of displaying the image
of the vicinity of the tips of the cutting forceps 42b
provided by the monitor optical system 42c. Two monitor
5 optical systems may also be employed to stereoscopically
observe the vicinity of the tips of the cutting forceps 42b.

It is also possible to make infrared light observations,
fluorescent light observations, zoomed observations,
ultrasonic observations, confocal observations, or optical
10 coherent tomographic observations (OCT).

The surgical instrument 43 has the following components
fixedly inserted into a resiliently deflectable cylindrical
body 43a to feed water for cleaning the site of lesion and
the surrounding area thereof and apply suction to a liquid
15 such as blood or cleaning water at the site of lesion and the
surrounding area thereof. The components include a cleaning
water feed/suction tube 43b for feeding water to clean the
site of lesion and the surrounding area thereof and applying
suction to a liquid such as blood or cleaning water at the
20 site of lesion and the surrounding area thereof from outside
the patient; a monitor optical system (monitor device) 43c
for observing the vicinity of the tip of the cleaning water
feed/suction tube 43b; illumination optical systems
(illumination device) 43d and 43e for illuminating the
25 vicinity of the tip of the cleaning water feed/suction tube

43b with light; and an air feed line 43f (air feed device) for feeding air into the patient and a water feed line 43g (water feed device) for feeding water to the monitor optical system 43c to defog or clean the surface thereof. The surgical instrument 43 is connected at its proximal end portion to the surgical instrument manipulating device 83 for introducing, withdrawing, and deflecting the body 43a; controlling the feeding of water and applications of suction by the cleaning water feed/suction tube 43b; adjusting the focus, field of view, and zooming of the monitor optical system 43c; adjusting the brightness, direction, and angle of the illumination optical systems 43d and 43e; and feeding water to the monitor optical system 43c to defog or clean the surface thereof and feeding air into the patient. The surgical instrument manipulating device 83 makes the surgical instrument 43 operable from outside the patient. The monitor optical system 43c is connected at the proximal end portion of the surgical instrument 43 to image displaying device 93 which is capable of displaying the image of the vicinity of the tip of the cleaning water feed/suction tube 43b provided by the monitor optical system 43c. Two monitor optical systems may also be employed to stereoscopically observe the vicinity of the tip of the cleaning water feed/suction tube 43b. It is also possible to make infrared light observations, fluorescent light observations, zoomed observations,

ultrasonic observations, confocal observations, or optical coherent tomographic (OCT) observations.

The surgical instrument 44 has the following components fixedly inserted into a resiliently deflectable cylindrical body 44a to locally stop bleeding at a desired portion: an RF hemostatic forceps 44b for applying a radio frequency to a desired portion and thereby generating heat to stop bleeding; a monitor optical system (monitor device) 44c for observing the vicinity of the tips of the RF hemostatic forceps 44b; illumination optical systems (illumination devices) 44d and 44e for illuminating the vicinity of the tips of the RF hemostatic forceps 44b with light; an air feed line 44f (air feed device) for feeding air into the patient; and a water feed line 44g (water feed device) for feeding water to the monitor optical system 44c to defog or clean the surface thereof. The surgical instrument 44 is connected at the proximal end portion thereof to the surgical instrument manipulating device 84 for introducing, withdrawing, and deflecting the body 44a; controlling the hemostatic operations provided by the RF hemostatic forceps 44b; adjusting the focus, field of view, and zooming of the monitor optical system 44c; adjusting the brightness, direction, and angle of the illumination optical systems 44d and 44e; and feeding water to the monitor optical system 44c to defog or clean the surface thereof and feeding air into

the patient. The surgical instrument manipulating device 84 allows the surgical instrument 44 to be operable from outside the patient. The monitor optical system 44c is connected at the proximal end portion of the surgical instrument 44 to an
5 image displaying device 94 which is capable of displaying the image of the vicinity of the tips of the RF hemostatic forceps 44b provided by the monitor optical system 44c. Two monitor optical systems may also be employed to stereoscopically observe the vicinity of the tips of the RF
10 hemostatic forceps 44b. It is also possible to make infrared light observations, fluorescent light observations, zoomed observations, ultrasonic observations, confocal observations, or optical coherent tomographic observations (OCT).

The surgical instrument 45 has the following components
15 fixedly inserted into a resiliently deflectable cylindrical body 45a to incise a desired portion: an RF incision knife 45b for pushing its RF-vibrating tip portion against a desired portion for incision; a monitor optical system (monitor device) 45c for observing the vicinity of the tip of
20 the RF incision knife 45b; illumination optical systems (illumination device) 45d and 45e for illuminating the vicinity of the tip of the RF incision knife 45b with light; an air feed line 45f (air feed device) for feeding air into the patient; and a water feed line 45g (water feed device)
25 for feeding water to the monitor optical system 45c to defog

or clean the surface thereof. The surgical instrument 45 is connected at the proximal end portion thereof to the surgical instrument manipulating device 85 for introducing, withdrawing, and deflecting the body 45a; controlling the incision operations provided by the RF incision knife 45b; adjusting the focus, field of view, and zooming of the monitor optical system 45c; adjusting the brightness, direction, and angle of the illumination optical systems 45d and 45e; and feeding water to the monitor optical system 45c to defog or clean the surface thereof and feeding air into the patient. The surgical instrument manipulating device 85 allows the surgical instrument 45 to be operable from outside the patient. The monitor optical system 45c is connected at the proximal end portion of the surgical instrument 45 to image displaying device 95 which is capable of displaying the image of the vicinity of the tip of the RF incision knife 45b provided by the monitor optical system 45c. Two monitor optical systems may also be employed to stereoscopically observe the vicinity of the tip of RF incision knife 45b. It is also possible to make infrared light observations, fluorescent light observations, zoomed observations, ultrasonic observations, confocal observations, or optical coherent tomographic observations (OCT).

The following is an explanation on a surgical procedure performed on a site of lesion using the aforementioned

internal treatment apparatus 200 and the internal treatment system 300. First, an adequate portion is incised to perform the surgical procedure on a site of lesion in a patient. Even for a surgical procedure that requires a plurality of surgical instruments, the internal treatment apparatus 200 only requires an incised portion just large enough to introduce therethrough the internal treatment apparatus 200 into the patient (e.g., about 5cm for the apparatus body 10 having an outer diameter of 5cm), thereby reducing the burden on the patient.

Thereafter, the internal treatment apparatus 200 is introduced into a patient 50 through the incised portion. Before the insertion, the body manipulating device 60 is connected to the apparatus body 10, the endoscope manipulating device 70 and the image displaying device 87 are connected to the stereoscopic endoscope 21, the surgical instrument manipulating devices 81 through 85 are connected to the surgical instruments 41 through 45, respectively, and the image displaying devices 91 through 95 are connected to the surgical instruments 41 through 45, respectively, as shown in Figure 3. The internal treatment apparatus 200 is introduced into the patient and then stopped, so as to commence the surgical procedure when a view range 22 of the stereoscopic endoscope 21 allows the operator to view a lesion 55 and the surrounding area thereof and each tip

portion of the surgical instruments 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45, as shown in Figure 4.

The internal treatment apparatus 200 is designed such that the surgical instruments 41 through 45 are arranged to surround the stereoscopic endoscope 21, thereby allowing the surgical instruments 41 through 45 to be placed along the entire circumference of a view range provided by the stereoscopic endoscope 21 during the surgical procedure. This allows the operator to easily recognize the lesion and the surgical instruments 41 through 45, thereby facilitating the manipulation thereof. Additionally, the surgical instruments can be replaced as appropriate to facilitate a surgical operation. For example, as shown in Figure 4, two grasper forceps 41b can be used to elevate the lesion 55 at the left and right sides thereof. The RF incision knife 45b is then used to sever the lesion 55 at a base thereof, and the RF hemostatic forceps 44b and the cleaning water feed/suction tube 43b are then used to stop bleeding and feed cleaning water from above as required. Furthermore, for a lesion 55 located deep inside the patient, the internal treatment apparatus 200 can be introduced deep into the patient to provide a view range as shown in Figure 4, thereby allowing the surgical procedure to be performed smoothly with safety.

A modified example will be explained below. As shown in

Figure 5, the resiliently deflectable cylindrical bodies 41a, 42a, 43a, 44a, and 45a can be replaced with endoscopic insertion portions 141a, 142a, 143a, 144a, and 145a, respectively. In this case, the grasper forceps 41b, the cutting forceps 42b, the cleaning water feed/suction tube 43b, the RF hemostatic forceps 44b, and the RF incision knife 45b are passed through forceps channels 141h, 142h, 143h, 144h, and 145h which are provided in the endoscopic insertion portions 141a, 142a, 143a, 144a, and 145a, respectively. Likewise with the surgical instruments 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45, the endoscopic insertion portions 141a, 142a, 143a, 144a, and 145a are provided with a monitor optical system, an illumination optical system, an air feed line, a water feed line, and a deflectable portion. This configuration allows for utilizing an existing endoscope, thereby reducing manufacturing costs.

As shown in Figure 6, the body manipulating device 60, the endoscope manipulating device 70, and the surgical instrument manipulating devices 81 through 85 can be replaced with a manipulating device 160 which allows the operator to collectively or selectively manipulate the apparatus body 10, the stereoscopic endoscope 21, and the surgical instruments 41 through 45. The image displaying device 87 and the image displaying device 91 through 95 can be replaced with an image display device 190 which can collectively or selectively

display images from the monitor optical systems 21b and 21c of the stereoscopic endoscope 21 and from the monitor optical systems 41c, 42c, 43c, 44c, and 45c of the surgical instruments 41 through 45. This configuration provides a space-saving, compact system, allowing a less number of operators to efficiently perform surgical procedures.

[SECOND EMBODIMENT]

A second embodiment of the present invention will be described below in detail with reference to Figures 7 through 14. An internal treatment apparatus 400 and an internal treatment system 500 (Figure 14) according to the second embodiment, which are intended to perform a medical treatment on a site of lesion (target site) inside a patient, include an apparatus body 10a having a center opening 220 and a circumferential opening portion 130. The internal treatment system 500 further includes a body manipulating device 260, a endoscope manipulating device 170, and surgical instrument manipulating devices 181 and 182.

The apparatus body 10a can be formed as a flexible tubular member to be introduced into a patient (subject). As shown in Figure 9, the apparatus body 10a includes a distal end portion 111 having a circular cross section with the outer diameter thereof reduced toward its distal end, and a resiliently deflectable portion 112 secured to a rear end face 111a of the distal end portion 111. The apparatus body

10a is introduced into a patient from the tip of the distal end portion 111 so as to reach deep inside the patient to the location of a site of lesion. The apparatus body 10a allows the body manipulating device 260 (Figure 14) connected to the proximal end portion thereof to introduce or withdraw the apparatus body 10a into or from the patient and adjust the degree of deflection of the deflectable portion 112. For example, the body manipulating device 260 includes a manual device for the operator for manual manipulation, an automatic feed device, and a winding device, which allows the body manipulating device 260 to make the apparatus body 10a operable from outside the patient.

The cylindrical apparatus body 10a is provided with the circular center opening 220, which passes through the apparatus body 10a from the center of one bottom face (distal end face) 111b of the two bottom faces, the bottom face 111b facing the lesion 55, toward the other bottom face (proximal end face, not shown). The apparatus body 10a is further provided with the circumferential opening portion 130 which passes through the apparatus body 10a from a side face 112b of the deflectable portion 112 toward a proximal end face 10c (Figure 14) of the apparatus body 10a. A stereoscopic endoscope 221 for observing a site of lesion (target site) is inserted through the center opening 220 to protrude from an outlet 220b to the lesion 55. The circumferential opening

portion 130 includes two circular apertures 131 and 132 disposed at equi-angular intervals (at intervals of 180 degrees in this embodiment) about a center 220a of the center opening 220. Surgical instruments 242 and 241 for performing
5 a surgical procedure on a site of lesion are passed through the apertures 131 and 132 to protrude outwardly from outlets 131a and 132a, respectively. The distance between the outlet 131a and the distal end face 111b is equal to that between the outlet 132a and the distal end face 111b. The outlets
10 131a and 132a being preferably equal in inner diameter would allow the surgical instruments 241 and 242 to be replaced according to the contents and steps of surgical procedures. It is also desirable to make the inner diameter of the outlets 131a and 132a greater than the outer diameter of the
15 surgical instruments 241 and 242 to use the surgical instruments 241 and 242 at desired angles.

The apparatus body 10a having the apertures 131 and 132 can be formed according to an existing technique. For example, it is possible to form the apparatus body 10a having
20 the apertures 131 and 132 by molding a heat meltable resin in a mold having a cylindrical portion the same in shape as the apertures 131 and 132 and then solidifying the resin by cooling. The apertures 131 and 132 formed in this manner would prevent the endoscope and two surgical instruments from
25 being entangled or interfering with each other inside the

apparatus body 10a, thereby eliminating the difficulty of manipulating them. For example, the apparatus body 10a formed as described above may have an outer diameter of 5cm with the apertures 131 and 132 each having an inner diameter of 1.2cm. On the other hand, the distal end portion 111 and the center opening 220 may have not necessarily to be circular in cross section.

As shown in Figure 9, the stereoscopic endoscope 221 has the following components fixedly inserted into a resiliently deflectable cylindrical body 221a. The components include two monitor optical systems 221b and 221c for stereoscopically observing a site of lesion; illumination optical systems 221d and 221e for illuminating the site of lesion with light; an air feed line 221f for feeding air into the patient; and a water feed line 221g for feeding water to the monitor optical systems 221b and 221c to defog or clean the surface thereof. The stereoscopic endoscope 221 is employed in this manner to observe a site of lesion and the surrounding area thereof stereoscopically, thereby making it possible to perform medical treatment precisely and smoothly.

Furthermore, as shown in Figure 14, the stereoscopic endoscope 221 is connected at the proximal end portion thereof to the endoscope manipulating device 170 for introducing and withdrawing the body 221a; adjusting the focus, field of view, and zooming of the monitor optical

systems 221b and 221c; adjusting the brightness, direction,
and angle of the illumination optical systems 221d and 221e;
and feeding water to the monitor optical systems 221b and
221c to defog or clean the surface thereof and feeding air
5 into the patient. This allows the endoscope manipulating
device 170 to make the stereoscopic endoscope 221 operable
from outside the patient. The monitor optical systems 221b
and 221c are connected at the proximal end portion of the
stereoscopic endoscope 221 to image displaying device 187
10 which is capable of displaying stereoscopically the images of
the site of lesion and its surrounding provided thereby. It
is also possible to employ only a single monitor optical
system depending on the contents of medical treatments.

For example, as shown in Figure 9, the surgical
15 instrument 241 has the following components fixedly inserted
into a resiliently deflectable cylindrical body 241a to sever
the site of lesion whose surrounding is grasped with the
surgical instrument 242: a cutting forceps 241b capable of
severing an object; a monitor optical system (monitor device)
20 241c for observing the vicinity of the tips of the cutting
forceps 241b; illumination optical systems (illumination
device) 241d and 241e for illuminating the vicinity of the
tips of the cutting forceps 241b with light; and an air feed
line 241f (air feed device) for feeding air into the patient
25 and a water feed line 241g (water feed device) for feeding

water to the monitor optical system 241c to defog or clean the surface thereof. As shown in Figure 14, the surgical instrument 241 is connected at the proximal end portion thereof to the surgical instrument manipulating device 181 for introducing, withdrawing, and deflecting the body 241a; controlling the severing operation of the cutting forceps 241b; adjusting the focus, field of view, and zooming of the monitor optical system 241c; adjusting the brightness, direction, and angle of the illumination optical systems 241d and 241e; and feeding water to the monitor optical system 241c to defog or clean the surface thereof and feeding air into the patient. This allows the surgical instrument manipulating device 181 to make the surgical instrument 241 operable from outside the patient. The monitor optical system 241c is connected at the proximal end portion of the surgical instrument 241 to an image displaying device 191 which is capable of displaying the image of the vicinity of the tips of the cutting forceps 241b provided by the monitor optical system 241c. Two monitor optical systems may also be employed to stereoscopically observe the vicinity of the tips of the cutting forceps 241b. It is also possible to make infrared light observations, fluorescent light observations, zoomed observations, ultrasonic observations, confocal observations, or optical coherent tomographic (OCT) observations.

For example, as shown in Figure 9, the surgical instrument 242 has the following components fixedly inserted into a resiliently deflectable cylindrical body 242a to sever the site of lesion whose surrounding is grasped with the surgical instrument 241: a cutting forceps 242b capable of severing an object; a monitor optical system (monitor device) 242c for observing the vicinity of the tips of the cutting forceps 242b; illumination optical systems (illumination device) 242d and 242e for illuminating the vicinity of the tips of the cutting forceps 242b with light; and an air feed line 242f (air feed device) for feeding air into the patient and a water feed line 242g (water feed device) for feeding water to the monitor optical system 242c to defog or clean the surface thereof. As shown in Figure 14, the surgical instrument 242 is connected at its proximal end portion to the surgical instrument manipulating device 182 for introducing, withdrawing, and deflecting the body 242a; controlling the severing operation of the cutting forceps 242b; adjusting the focus, field of view, and zooming of the monitor optical system 242c; adjusting the brightness, direction, and angle of the illumination optical systems 242d and 242e; and feeding water to the monitor optical system 242c to defog or clean the surface thereof and feeding air into the patient. This allows the surgical instrument manipulating device 182 to make the surgical instrument 242

operable from outside the patient. The monitor optical system 242c is connected at the proximal end portion of the surgical instrument 242 to an image displaying device 192 which is capable of displaying the image of the vicinity of the tips of the cutting forceps 242b provided by the monitor optical system 242c. Two monitor optical systems may also be employed to stereoscopically observe the vicinity of the tips of the cutting forceps 242b. It is also possible to make infrared light observations, fluorescent light observations, zoomed observations, ultrasonic observations, confocal observations, or optical coherent tomographic (OCT) observations.

The surgical instruments 241 and 242 may be inserted into any of the apertures 131 and 132 depending on the order of medical treatment steps or the shape of a site of lesion.

Any surgical instruments other than the surgical instruments 241 and 242 can also be inserted into the apertures 131 and 132. For example, assuming that the apertures 131 and 132 each have an inner diameter of 1.2cm, each of the surgical instruments 241 and 242 can have an outer diameter of 1cm.

In this manner, the stereoscopic endoscope 221 protrudes from the distal end face 111b while the surgical instruments 241 and 242 are protruded from the side faces, thereby reducing the risk of the surgical instruments 241 and 242 being tangled with each other inside the patient 50.

Accordingly, the stereoscopic endoscope 221 and the surgical instruments 241 and 242 can be easily placed at desired positions. Furthermore, as shown in Figure 10, the surgical instruments 241 and 242 access the lesion 55 from right and left sides within the view range provided by the stereoscopic endoscope 221, thereby allowing the operator to view an enlarged range without being obstructed by the surgical instruments 241 and 242.

It is possible to employ any number of apertures in the circumferential opening portion 130. For example, as shown in Figures 11 to 13, five apertures can be employed in the circumferential opening portion 130. In this example, the circumferential opening portion 130 includes five apertures 131, 132, 133, 134, and 135. The apertures 131, 132, 133, 134, and 135 are disposed at equi-angular intervals (angular intervals of 72 degrees) about a center 220a of the center opening 220 to extend through the apparatus body 10a to reach circular outlets 131a, 132a, 133a, 134a, and 135a provided on the side face 112b, respectively. The outlets 131a, 132a, 133a, 134a, and 135a are disposed at the equal distance from the distal end face 111b. The aforementioned flexible elongated surgical instruments 241, 242, 243, 244, and 245 are retractably inserted into and penetrate the apertures 131, 132, 133, 134, and 135, respectively.

As shown in Figure 13, the surgical instrument 243 has

the following components fixedly inserted into a resiliently deflectable cylindrical body 243a to feed water for cleaning the site of lesion and its surrounding and apply suction to a liquid such as blood or cleaning water at the site of lesion and the surrounding area thereof. The components include a cleaning water feed/suction tube 243b for feeding water to clean the site of lesion and the surrounding area thereof and applying suction to a liquid such as blood or cleaning water at the site of lesion and its surrounding from outside the patient; a monitor optical system (monitor device) 243c for observing the vicinity of the tip of the cleaning water feed/suction tube 243b; illumination optical systems (illumination device) 243d and 243e for illuminating the vicinity of the tip of the cleaning water feed/suction tube 243b with light; and an air feed line 243f (air feed device) for feeding air into the patient and a water feed line 243g (water feed device) for feeding water to the monitor optical system 243c to defog or clean the surface thereof. The surgical instrument 243 is connected at its proximal end portion to surgical instrument manipulating device (not shown) for introducing, withdrawing, and deflecting the body 243a; controlling the feeding of water and applications of suction by the cleaning water feed/suction tube 243b; adjusting the focus, field of view, and zooming of the monitor optical system 243c; adjusting the brightness,

direction, and angle of the illumination optical systems 243d and 243e; and feeding water to the monitor optical system 243c to defog or clean the surface thereof and feeding air into the patient. This surgical instrument manipulating
5 device allows the surgical instrument 243 to be operable from outside the patient. The monitor optical system 243c is connected at the proximal end portion of the surgical instrument 243 to image displaying device (not shown) which is capable of displaying the image of the vicinity of the tip
10 of the cleaning water feed/suction tube 243b provided by the monitor optical system 243c. Two monitor optical systems may also be employed to stereoscopically observe the vicinity of the tip of the cleaning water feed/suction tube 243b. It is also possible to make infrared light observations,
15 fluorescent light observations, zoomed observations, ultrasonic observations, confocal observations, or optical coherent tomographic(OCT) observations.

As shown in Figure 13, the surgical instrument 244 has the following components fixedly inserted into a resiliently
20 deflectable cylindrical body 244a to locally stop bleeding at a desired portion. The components include an RF hemostatic forceps 244b for applying a radio frequency locally to a desired portion and thereby generating heat to stop bleeding; a monitor optical system (monitor device) 244c for observing
25 the vicinity of the tips of the RF hemostatic forceps 244b;

illumination optical systems (illumination device) 244d and 244e for illuminating the vicinity of the tips of the RF hemostatic forceps 244b with light; and an air feed line 244f (air feed device) for feeding air into the patient and a
5 water feed line 244g (water feed device) for feeding water to the monitor optical system 244c to defog or clean the surface thereof. The surgical instrument 244 is connected at its proximal end portion to surgical instrument manipulating device (not shown) for introducing, withdrawing, and
10 deflecting the body 244a; controlling the hemostatic operations provided by the RF hemostatic forceps 244b; adjusting the focus, field of view, and zooming of the monitor optical system 244c; adjusting the brightness, direction, and angle of the illumination optical systems 244d
15 and 244e; and feeding water to the monitor optical system 244c to defog or clean the surface thereof and feeding air into the patient. This surgical instrument manipulating device allows the surgical instrument 244 to be operable from outside the patient. The monitor optical system 244c is
20 connected at the proximal end portion of the surgical instrument 244 to image displaying device (not shown) which is capable of displaying the image of the vicinity of the tips of the RF hemostatic forceps 244b provided by the monitor optical system 244c. Two monitor optical systems may
25 also be employed to stereoscopically observe the vicinity of

the tips of the RF hemostatic forceps 244b. It is also possible to make infrared light observations, fluorescent light observations, zoomed observations, ultrasonic observations, confocal observations, or optical coherent tomographic (OCT) observations.

As shown in Figure 13, the surgical instrument 245 has the following components fixedly inserted into a resiliently deflectable cylindrical body 245a to incise a desired portion.

The components include an RF incision knife 245b for pushing its RF-vibrating tip portion against a desired portion for incision; a monitor optical system (monitor device) 245c for observing the vicinity of the tip of the RF incision knife 245b; illumination optical systems (illumination device) 245d and 245e for illuminating the vicinity of the tip of the RF incision knife 245b with light; and an air feed line 245f (air feed device) for feeding air into the patient and a water feed line 245g (water feed device) for feeding water to the monitor optical system 245c to defog or clean the surface thereof. The surgical instrument 245 is connected at its proximal end portion to surgical instrument manipulating device (not shown) for introducing, withdrawing, and deflecting the body 245a; controlling the incision operations provided by the RF incision knife 245b; adjusting the focus, field of view, and zooming of the monitor optical system 245c; adjusting the brightness, direction, and angle of the

illumination optical systems 245d and 245e; and feeding water to the monitor optical system 245c to defog or clean the surface thereof and feeding air into the patient. This surgical instrument manipulating device allows the surgical instrument 245 to be operable from outside the patient. The monitor optical system 245c is connected at the proximal end portion of the surgical instrument 245 to image displaying device (not shown) which is capable of displaying the image of the vicinity of the tip of the RF incision knife 245b provided by the monitor optical system 245c. Two monitor optical systems may also be employed to stereoscopically observe the vicinity of the tip of the RF incision knife 245b.

It is also possible to make infrared light observations, fluorescent light observations, zoomed observations, ultrasonic observations, confocal observations, or optical coherent tomographic (OCT) observations.

The surgical instruments 241, 242, 243, 244, and 245 being preferably equal in outer diameter could be inserted into any aperture according to the contents and steps of the surgical procedure. It is also desirable to make the inner diameter of the outlets 131a, 132a, 133a, 134a, and 135a greater than the outer diameter of the surgical instruments 241, 242, 243, 244, and 245 to use the surgical instruments 241, 242, 243, 244, and 245 at desired angles.

The following is an explanation on a surgical procedure

performed on a site of lesion using the internal treatment apparatus 400 and the internal treatment system 500, shown in Figures 7 through 9. First, an adequate portion is incised to perform a surgical procedure on a site of lesion in a patient. Even for a surgical procedure that requires a plurality of surgical instruments, the internal treatment apparatus 400 would require an incised portion just large enough to introduce therethrough the internal treatment apparatus 400 into the patient (e.g., about 5cm for the apparatus body 10a having an outer diameter of 5cm), thereby reducing the burden on the patient.

Thereafter, as shown in Figure 14, the internal treatment apparatus 400 is introduced into a patient 50 through the incised portion. Before the insertion, the body manipulating device 260, the endoscope manipulating device 170, the surgical instrument manipulating devices 181 and 182, and the image displaying device 187 and 191 have been already connected to the apparatus body 10a, the stereoscopic endoscope 221, and the surgical instruments 241 and 242 in the internal treatment apparatus 400. When introduced into the patient 50, the surgical instruments 241 and 242 are preferably accommodated inside the apparatus body 10a without being protruded from the outlets 131a and 132a by manipulating the surgical instrument manipulating devices 181 and 182. This is to prevent the surgical instruments 241 and

242 from being protruded from the apparatus body 10a to hurt the patient 50 during the introduction. The internal treatment apparatus 400 is introduced into the patient and then stopped to start the surgical procedure when a view range 22 of the stereoscopic endoscope 221 allows the operator to view a lesion 55 and the surrounding area thereof and each tip portion of the surgical instruments 241, 242, as shown in Figure 10.

The internal treatment apparatus 400 is designed such that the surgical instruments 241 and 242 are arranged to surround the stereoscopic endoscope 221, thereby allowing the surgical instruments 241 and 242 to come into the view provided by the stereoscopic endoscope 221 from its periphery during the surgical procedure. This allows the operator to easily recognize the lesion 55 and the surgical instruments 241 and 242, thereby facilitating the manipulation thereof. Furthermore, the stereoscopic endoscope 221 is protruded from the distal end face 111b while the surgical instruments 241 and 242 are protruded from the side face 112b, thereby reducing the risk of the surgical instruments 241 and 242 being interfered with each other. Accordingly, for a lesion 55 located deep inside the patient, the internal treatment apparatus 400 can be introduced deep into the patient, thereby performing the surgical procedure smoothly and with safety. The following are explanations of modifications of

the second embodiment, according to the present invention.

The illumination light which is emitted from the illumination optical systems 221d and 221e can be white light, and the illumination light which is emitted from each of the illumination optical systems 241d, 241e, 242d, 242e, 243d, 243e, 244d, 244e, 245d and 245e can be colored light. According to this arrangement, if the surgical instruments 241 through 245 are directed toward the center axis 10b of the apparatus body 10a, colored light appears within the field-of-view of the stereoscopic endoscope 221, and the farther the surgical instruments 241 through 245 are moved away from the center axis 10b, the amount of colored light which appears within the field-of-view of the stereoscopic endoscope 221 decreases. If such a characteristic is utilized, operation of the surgical instruments 241 through 245 is facilitated because the bending direction of the surgical instruments 241 through 245 can be visually confirmed. It is desirable for the illumination light emitted from the illumination optical systems 221d, 221e, 241d, 241e, 242d, 242e, 243d, 243e, 244d, 244e, 245d and 245e, to be changeable between white light and colored light.

Furthermore, it is desirable for each colored light emitted from the surgical instruments 241 through 245 to be set so as to have a different wavelength from each other. Accordingly, the bending direction of each of the surgical

instruments 241 through 245 can be visually confirmed individually. The white light and colored light can be continuous light or intermitting light, and if a combination of continuous light and intermitting light is applied, light
5 emitted from the illumination optical systems 221d and 221e and light emitted from the illumination optical systems 221d, 221e, 241d, 241e, 242d, 242e, 243d, 243e, 244d, 244e, 245d and 245e can be easily distinguished visually. Furthermore, if the wavelength of the colored light is altered in
10 accordance with time, by changing the colored illumination state within the field-of-view of the stereoscopic endoscope 221 during an operation, an object under observation can be easily confirmed visually in the case where one illumination color is insufficient for observation throughout the duration
15 of an operation.

Furthermore, the intensity of light emitted from the illumination optical systems 221d and 221e can be made to differ from the intensity of light emitted from the illumination optical systems 221d, 221e, 241d, 241e, 242d,
20 242e, 243d, 243e, 244d, 244e, 245d and 245e. Accordingly, since the light emitted from the illumination optical systems 221d and 221e, and the light emitted from the illumination optical systems 221d, 221e, 241d, 241e, 242d, 242e, 243d, 243e, 244d, 244e, 245d and 245e can be easily distinguished,
25 the bending directions of the surgical instruments 241

through 245 can be visually confirmed, facilitating the operation thereof.

As shown in Figure 15, instead of the two circular apertures 131 and 132, two circular apertures 231 and 232 are provided. Two channels 231b and 232b of the two circular apertures 231 and 232 extend parallel to a center axis 10b of an apparatus body 110a, and are the same as two channels 131b and 132b, of the two circular apertures 131 and 132, which extend parallel to the center axis 10b of the apparatus body 10a. Outlets 231a and 232a are provided closer to than the bottom face (distal end face) 111b than the outlets 131a and 132a. Accordingly, compared to the two circular apertures 131 and 132, the angle by which surgical instruments 341 and 342 (see Figure 16) project out of the two circular apertures 231 and 232 of the apparatus body 110a (i.e., the angle with respect to the center axis 10b of the apparatus body 110a) is smaller.

Figure 16 shows the internal treatment apparatus 600 with surgical instruments 341 and 342 being inserted into apertures 231 and 232, respectively, in the modified second embodiment of Figure 15. The angle by which the surgical instrument 341 projects out of the apparatus body 110a from the outlet 231a (i.e., the angle between the center axis 10b and the surgical instrument 341 when extended in a straight line (center axis 341h)), and the angle by which the surgical

instrument 342 projects out of the apparatus body 110a from the outlet 232a (i.e., the angle between the center axis 10b and the surgical instrument 342 when extended in a straight line (center axis 342h)), are represented as 'B' in Figure 16, and the total angle '2B' thereof is less than the field-of-view 2A of the stereoscopic endoscope 321. According to this construction, the distal ends of the surgical instruments 341 and 342 can easily fit into the field-of-view of the stereoscopic endoscope 321 even if the surgical instruments 341 and 342 are projected outwards in a straight line, so that a safe and reliable treatment operation can be carried out quickly and easily. Note that so long as the projection angle of each of the surgical instruments 341 and 342 is smaller than 'A', i.e., the half-angle of the field-of-view of the stereoscopic endoscope 321, the angle of each of the surgical instruments 341 and 342 can be set to a desired angle. Furthermore, it is desirable for the distal end portions of the surgical instruments 341 and 342 to be semi-hard rather than flexible in order to maintain the projection angle thereof.

As shown in Figure 17, instead of the two circular apertures 131 and 132, two circular apertures 331 and 332 are provided. Two channels 331b and 332b of the two circular apertures 331 and 332 extend parallel to a center axis 110b of an apparatus body 210a, and are the same as two channels

131b and 132b, of the two circular apertures 131 and 132, which extend parallel to the center axis 10b of the apparatus body 10a. Outlets 331a and 332a are provided so as to extend over the resiliently deflectable portion 112 and the bottom face (distal end face) 111b. Accordingly, compared to the two circular apertures 131 and 132, the angle by which surgical instruments 441 and 442 (see Figure 18) project out of the two circular apertures 331 and 332 of the apparatus body 210a (i.e., the angle with respect to the center axis 110b of the apparatus body 210a) is smaller.

Figure 18 shows the internal treatment apparatus 700 with surgical instruments 441 and 442 being inserted into apertures 331 and 332, respectively, in the modified second embodiment of Figure 17. The angle by which the surgical instrument 441 projects out of the apparatus body 210a from the outlet 331a (i.e., the angle between the center axis 110b and the surgical instrument 441 when extended in a straight line (center axis 441h)), and the angle by which the surgical instrument 442 projects out of the apparatus body 210a from the outlet 332a (i.e., the angle between the center axis 110b and the surgical instrument 442 when extended in a straight line (center axis 442h)), are represented as 'C' in Figure 18, and the total angle '2C' thereof is less than the field-of-view 2A of the stereoscopic endoscope 421. According to this construction, the distal ends of the surgical instruments 441

and 442 can easily fit into the field-of-view of the stereoscopic endoscope 421 even if the surgical instruments 441 and 442 are projected outwards in a straight line, so that a safe and reliable treatment operation can be carried out quickly and easily. Note that so long as the projection angle of each of the surgical instruments 441 and 442 is smaller than 'A', i.e., the half-angle of the field-of-view of the stereoscopic endoscope 421, the angle of each of the surgical instruments 441 and 442 can be set to a desired angle. Furthermore, it is desirable for the distal end portions of the surgical instruments 441 and 442 to be semi-hard rather than flexible in order to maintain the projection angle thereof.

As shown in Figure 19, grooves 541 through 545 having the same shape and concaved in a direction from the side face 212b to the 10b can be provided in each space between two adjacent outlets 431a and 435a (outlets 434a and 435a are not shown in Figure 19) provided on the side face 212b at equi-angular intervals around the center opening 320. According to this construction, since the amount of surface area to which the distal end portion 211 and the resiliently deflectable portion 212 touches internal tissue of the patient 50 can be reduced, it becomes easier to insert the internal treatment apparatus 800 into the patient 50, and hence reducing the burden on both the patient and the

operator (practitioner). The grooves 541 through 545 can be of a desired shape so long as the amount of surface area to which the distal end portion 211 and the resiliently deflectable portion 212 touches internal tissue of the patient 50 can be reduced.

Other configurations, operations, effects, and modified examples such as those of the first embodiment can also be applied to the second embodiment.

According to an aspect of the present invention, surgical instruments can be placed at equal angular intervals around an endoscope for observing a target site. This reduces the length of an incised portion for surgical procedures performed on a site of lesion inside a patient even when a plurality of surgical instruments are introduced at the same time through the incised portion. Additionally, for a surgical procedure performed on a site of lesion located deep inside the patient, it is possible to ensure an adequate view range without increasing the length of the incised portion. Furthermore, the surgical instruments are placed so as to surround the endoscope for observing the site of lesion, thereby preventing the surgical instruments from interfering with each other and obstructing the view, and allowing the operator to perform the surgical procedure smoothly.

According to another aspect of the present invention, an

endoscope is protruded from a bottom face of the cylindrical body while surgical instruments are protruded from the side face. This configuration prevents the surgical instruments from obstructing the view window of the endoscope and restricting the field of view, thereby eliminating the difficulty of viewing the site of lesion and the surrounding area thereof. Furthermore, a plurality of surgical instruments could be introduced into the patient to access the site of lesion from the periphery of the view range provided by the endoscope. This reduces the risk of interference between the surgical instruments or the surgical instruments and the endoscope, thus allowing the surgical instruments and the endoscope to positively access the site of lesion. This also allows the surgical instruments and the endoscope accommodated inside the body to be introduced into the patient, thereby reducing the length of an incised portion even when a plurality of surgical instruments are introduced at the same time through the incised portion.

Obvious changes may be made in the specific embodiments of the present invention described herein, such modifications being within the spirit and scope of the invention claimed.

It is indicated that all matter contained herein is illustrative and does not limit the scope of the present invention.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

According to the present invention, the internal treatment apparatus is designed such that the surgical instruments are arranged to surround the stereoscopic endoscope, thereby allowing the surgical instruments to be placed along the entire circumference of a view range provided by the stereoscopic endoscope during the surgical procedure. This allows the operator to easily recognize the lesion and the surgical instruments, thereby facilitating the manipulation thereof. Additionally, the surgical instruments can be replaced as appropriate to facilitate a surgical operation. Furthermore, for a lesion located deep inside the patient, the internal treatment apparatus can be introduced deep into the patient to provide a view range, thereby allowing the surgical procedure to be performed smoothly with safety.